

2015-2016 NYS Refusal Letter

Student: _____
School: _____
Teacher: _____
Grade: _____

Dear Educators,

We are writing today to formally inform the district of our decision to refuse to allow our child _____, to participate in:

_____ the 2016 New York State grade 3-8 ELA assessment

_____ the 2016 New York State grade 3-8 math assessment

_____ any stand alone New York State field testing in the 2015/16 school year (grades 3-12)

_____ any local/benchmark assessment used in the New York State teacher evaluation system administered in the fall, winter, and spring (may include STAR, AIMSweb, MAP/NWEA, SLO's) in the 2015/16 school year (grades k-12) (excluding spring 2016 middle school local assessments being used as a final grade)

_____ the 2016 grade 4 New York State science assessment

_____ the 2016 grade 8 New York State science assessment

Our refusal should in no way reflect on the teachers, administration, or school board. This was not an easy decision for us, but we feel that we have no other choice. We simply see these tests as harmful, expensive, and a waste of time and valuable resources.

We refuse to allow any data to be used for purposes other than the individual teacher's own formative or cumulative assessment. We are opposed to assessments whose data is used to determine school ranking, teacher effectiveness, or any other purpose other than for the individual classroom teacher's own use to improve his or her instruction.

We are aware that NYS Education Commissioner Mary Ellen Elia will direct you to talk us out of this decision in an effort to push forward the corporate takeover of public education. We decline any such meeting or phone call. Do not contact us for that reason. To protect yourself, keep this letter as proof to Commissioner Elia that we have declined. Instead, we invite you to attend an educational seminar detailing the expert research and reasons that have led parents to refuse participation in this harmful testing program.

Sincerely,